



The Hon Julia Gillard MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of our member schools across the country I am writing to offer our warm congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister.

We have been grateful for the nature of our relationship with you in the Education portfolio. You have engendered significant goodwill within our sector of Christian schools through your accessibility and openness. In particular we have been pleased to have your company at the National Policy Forum dinner each May at Parliament House.

Christian schools appreciate the stand you have taken against policy based on division. We regard the present period as having marked a historic shift towards overturning old arguments and ideologies that do not serve the needs of educating Australian children. We have noted well your firm adherence to a more constructive and even-handed approach to school funding and thank you for it. We are looking forward to participating in the Funding Review established by you, and to see these principles outworked in future policy.

Schools have appreciated the opportunities afforded by the BER grants. This funding has been efficiently and effectively utilised in Christian schools and they, along with their wider communities, are seeing great benefits from these facilities.

We support the development of a national curriculum and have appreciated the consensus-building which was a hallmark of your approach as Education Minister. This has served the process very well.

You can also be well pleased with the establishment of the MySchool site. This is a valuable tool which will increasingly show its benefits to educators and the community alike. We believe the future success of MySchool will depend on the degree of preparedness to continue open and genuine discussion regarding its content and methodologies, building a consensus in the way that has underpinned the approaches to the Australian Curriculum.

We thank you for your willingness to take on the leadership of our nation and do not underestimate the personal impact and sacrifices this will involve.

You will recall that on each occasion that you have addressed our Dinner we have, with your permission, prayed for you in your professional and family roles. Please be assured that our member schools, and our CSA staff, will continue to pray for you, your family and colleagues, as you enter this new season.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. O'Doherty', followed by a period.

Stephen O'Doherty
Chief Executive Officer
Christians Schools Australia